

NIHR Global Health Research Group in Surgical Technologies

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Welcome to the Global Health Research Group

Welcome to the eighth quarterly newsletter from the Global Health Research Group in Surgical Technologies (GHRG-ST). Our newsletters will keep you up to date on the developments of the projects in Sierra Leone and Rural North East India.

Project GILLS - India

During the past 2 years we have been collaborating with our partners in India to deliver the TARGET laparoscopic training programme and to create a registry in the North East, to collect data on surgeries taking place in the hospitals of participating surgeons in the TARGET programme. To find out more about the progress of the project [click here](#).



GHRG-ST in Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone the group has carried out 2 projects, the first is the FIXT trial which is a before and after trial for lower limb closed fractures, the before arm is complete and the first patients with the external fixation frame have had this removed. In November we carried out the VITAL study, using immersive technology for lower limb amputation. To find out more [click here](#)



Global Health Research Group
in Surgical Technologies
Level 7
Clinical Sciences Building
St James's University Hospital
Leeds
LS9 7TF

Contact Us

<http://ghrgst.nihr.ac.uk>

Cheryl Harris, Programme
Manager
c.a.harris@leeds.ac.uk

Professor David Jayne, Co
Director
d.g.jayne@leeds.ac.uk

Professor Julia Brown, Co
Director
j.m.b.brown@leeds.ac.uk

Dr William Bolton, Clinical
Research Fellow
w.s.bolton@leeds.ac.uk

Mr Noel Aruparayil, Clinical
Research Fellow
n.k.aruparayil@leeds.ac.uk

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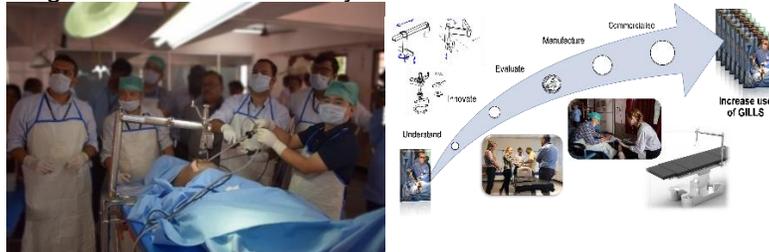
Emerging findings from health systems field research

Over the past three years we have worked with the Kohima Institute in Nagaland, North East India and the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences in Freetown, Sierra Leone to understand what prevents people accessing surgical services. Teams in both countries have undertaken interviews with patients, traditional providers, hospital staff and policy makers to understand factors that lead to the low rates of essential surgery we see in both contexts. To find out more [click here](#)



RAIS Device

To complement our work in developing the Gas Insufflation-Less Laparoscopic Surgery (GILLS) Registry and TARGET training program, the GHRG-ST (in collaboration Pd-m International and partners in India) have developed and evaluated a prototype of an innovative new device to perform abdominal wall lifting during GILLS surgery. By designing a device that is easy for surgeons working in low-resource, remote locations to sterilise, transport, manufacture, maintain and afford, the team aim to make using the GILLS technique and hence minimally invasive surgery a reality for rural surgeons across the country. To find out more [click here](#).



Lap Pack

LAP-PACK is a low-cost simulator for training in laparoscopic surgery. It is designed as a collapsible, portable flat pack trainer with following features, the lap pack is ultra-low cost, sturdy, light-weight corrugated plastic builds its structure. The rationale behind using it was to simulate the roughness of human abdominal organs, which was supported by clinical surgeons in the GHRG-ST team. An endoscopic camera with integrated light for illuminating the operative field. This camera is compatible with tablet, phone and computer screens. It could be manually adjusted to change the depth of view and zoom into the surgical task. To find out more [click here](#).



Prize Success

Archie Allen presented his placement project - Barriers to accessing and providing lower limb amputee rehabilitation services in the Western Area, Sierra Leone – the patients and local staff's perspective at the ASiT International Surgical Conference in March. The presentation won the Global Surgery Prize.

Top Downloaded Paper

Our paper, Disseminating technology in global surgery has been recognised as one of the most read papers in the British Journal of Surgery in 2018-2019. Link to the paper is below:
<https://bjssjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/bjs.11036>

Papers Published

Usability of a novel disposable endoscope for gastric cancer screening in low resource settings: results from rural India.

JH Chandler, M Chauhan, S Calo, N Aruparayil, N Garbin, F Campisano, KL Obstein, P Valdastri

<http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/161346/>

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